

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 have been canceled. New claims 17-20 have been added. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

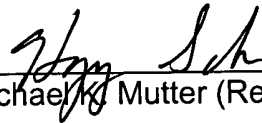
Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment(s): Abstract

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Attached hereto are replacement sheets 13-18 of corrected formal drawings that comply with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.84. The corrected formal drawings propose changes to Figs. 13-19 as submitted in parent application Serial No. 09/817,134.

It is respectfully requested that the corrected formal drawings be approved and made a part of the record of the above-identified application.